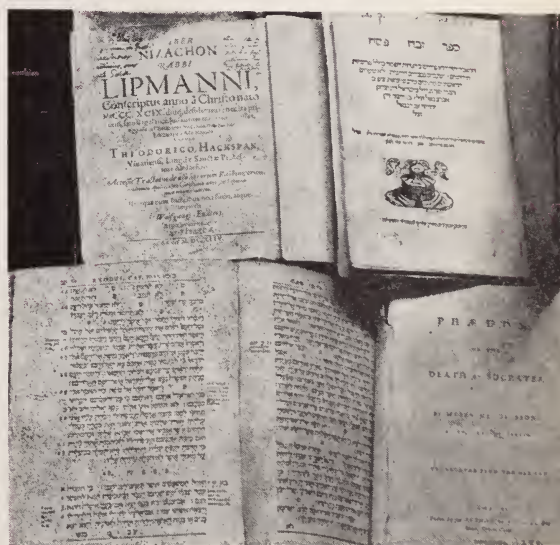


The Brooklyn Jewish Center Review

December, 1954

20 YEARS OF SERVING BOOKS



Organized 20 Years Ago to Preserve Books Banned by the Nazis the Center Library Now Has a Great Collection of General Works and Many Rare Books.

IN THIS ISSUE

A Symposium of the Addresses Delivered at the Celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the Founding of the Brooklyn Jewish Center and of Dr. Israel H. Levinthal's Ministry in the Center

Forum Lectures

THIS MONDAY, JANUARY 3, at 8:15 P.M.

HARRISON SALISBURY

Famed N. Y. "Times" Correspondent

Recently Returned From the Soviet Union.

Subject:

"INSIDE RUSSIA"

Admission: Center Members Free; To Others — 50¢



ANNUAL MEETING

of the

BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER

Thursday, January 27

8:15 P.M.

ANNUAL REPORT BY OUR PRESIDENT

DR. MOSES SPATT

Election of Officers, Members of the Board of
Trustees and Governing Board

A Fine Program of Entertainment is Being Planned.

Admission Limited to Center Members and their
Wives on presentation of Membership Cards.

SISTERHOOD GENERAL MEETING

Monday, January 24
12:45 P.M.

Featuring An Exciting Film

"AND THE BUSH WAS NOT
CONSUMED"

Guest Speaker

MRS. H. HERBERT ROSEMAN
National Vice-President of Women's League
Refreshments Served in Advance of Meeting

ANNOUNCING A GALA WEEK-END SISTERHOOD

In conjunction with
The Social Committee of the Center

at
LAUREL IN THE PINES
Lakewood, N. J.

Friday, March 4 through Sunday, March 6

All members invited—for reservations call Mrs.
Carl A. Kahn, SL 6-4088 and Harold M. Brown,
BU 2-5822.

Brooklyn Jewish Center Review

Vol. XXXVI

DECEMBER 1954 — TEBET KISLEV, 5715

No. 15

IN PRAISE OF OUR MEMBERS

WITH this issue of the *Review* we conclude the formal celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the founding of our Center and of Rabbi Levinthal's ministry in this congregation. During the course of the festivities deserving praise has been bestowed upon the founders and leaders of the Center who have these many years given of their energies and talents to the upbuilding and growth of this institution. But this celebration would not be com-

plete without praise for the numerous members who, in their various and often little known ways, work so hard to support the Center. Upon looking at the long list of our membership, we see first only a conglomeration of names, but when our eyes focus upon each name we find there a commitment and a prayer—a commitment to our Jewish faith and a prayer that this institution will fulfill and sustain this faith. These names spell out the significance of our Center.

•

A concert artist beginning his career soon discovers that however perfect be his technique and artistry his performance will depend on his audience. Its enthusiasm can fire his imagination and give his art the quality of greatness; its unresponsiveness can turn his art into drudgery. The responsiveness of the membership has given the Center an aura of greatness and has made it the model synagogue to which all of American Jewry looks for guidance and inspiration. Through his zeal and ardor the Center member has sustained and strengthened the hands of his Rabbis and his leaders. His loyalty to the Center and in turn to Jewish life has been expressed through his devoted service on the committees and the auxiliaries of this congregation. Business men, lawyers, physicians, laborers, teachers—they all blend harmoniously in the term "Center member," and thereby advance the cause of Judaism in our community and in our land.

In ancient Babylon during the Gaonic period, the Rabbis composed a "Mishberach" in tribute to the members of their congregations. This beautiful and touching prayer is now a part of our

Sabbath morning liturgy. We offer this same prayer for our Center members:

"May He who blessed our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, bless all this congregation, them, their wives, their sons and daughters and all that belong to them; those who unite to form synagogues for prayer and those who enter therein to pray; those who give the lamps for lighting, and wine for Kiddush and Havdalah, bread to the wayfarers, and charity to the poor, and all such as occupy themselves in faithfulness with the wants of the congregation. May the Holy One, blessed be He, sustained and prosper the work of their hands."

DR. BENJAMIN KREITMAN.

The Books on the Cover

The reproductions of the books on the cover of this issue are pages from rare works in the collection of the Library of the Brooklyn Jewish Center.

At the top left is the "Nizachon" by Rabbi Yomtov Lipman Muhlbausen, published in Nuremberg in 1644 by a non-Jew. It was printed in Hebrew with a Latin translation and is a polemic against Christianity and Karaitism.

Below this work is an ancient Bible with Latin and Greek notes. It was presented to the library by Dr. A. Asen. At the top, right, is the *Abarbanel Haggadab*, printed in Venice in 1545. Below it is a first edition of a noted work by Moses Mendelson, published in London in 1789.

INVITATION TO THE LIBRARY

THE history of the library of the Brooklyn Jewish Center can be read in this issue. Members of the Center and the members of the community may discover for themselves all the virtues which are outlined in Dr. Rabinowitz's article. The library has a large and important collection of books, and it offers these for our benefit. Nothing will make the directors of the library and its devoted librarian happier than to welcome visitors who may use it both for pleasurable reading or for study.

EDITORIAL BOARD Brooklyn Jewish Center

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Dr. Moses Spatt, President; Maurice Bernhardt, First Vice-President; Frank Schaeffer, Second Vice-President; Harry Blickstein, Secretary; Harold W. Hammer, Administrative Director; Israel H. Levinthal, D.D., D.H.L., D.J.T., Rabbi; Benjamin Kreitman, D.H.L., Rabbi; Mordecai H. Lewittes, Rabbi, in charge of the Hebrew and Religious Schools.

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"JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES"

"בינינו לבין עצמנו"

An Intimate Chat Between Rabbi and Reader

The Fine Growth of Our Library

I AM sure that those who attended the unforgettable gathering on the Monday evening, November 22, commemorating the 35th Anniversary of the founding of our Center and of my own ministry in the Center, are still under the spell of inspiration that pervaded the very atmosphere of the Synagogue on that occasion. As for myself, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who were responsible for the success of the evening—the chairman and the co-chairman and the members of the committee in charge, all those who participated in the delightful program, and to all the men and women who crowded the building and who gave evidence of the warmth of their feelings both for the Center and for its Rabbi. And of course I am grateful to the officers, trustees, governing board and members for their kind expression of affection and regard, which I deeply appreciate. I was made very happy by the announcement that a Fellowship would be established in the Department of Homiletics at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America which would bear my name, and which will enable gifted graduates to specialize in further research in this most important field of Rabbinic function.

But no sooner did we complete this celebration, when we were summoned to another commemoration—the 20th anniversary of the establishment of our Center Library. Indeed, we are literally fulfilling the Rabbinic interpretation of the words of the Psalmist: *yelchu n'cbayil el choyil*, "They go from strength to strength." "What means these words, going from strength to strength?" ask the sages. And they answer: "He who goes from Synagogue to the House of Study." The library is indeed an important aspect of a House of Study. Here we read and learn the life-thoughts of the great minds and creative spirits of our people—past and present.

Our Center Library, dedicated twenty years ago in the presence of Professor Albert Einstein, was founded as an answer to the destructive and barbarous efforts of Hitler to burn all books which reveal civilization's truths. It was our answer to an old challenge: *Sefer o Sayuf*—"The book or the sword?" The opening of our library at that very time was our reply, that we still choose the book and that we still regard ourselves as People of the Book!

Our library has grown to such proportions that thousands of volumes literally swell the walls of our limited quarters. It is today, undoubtedly, the largest collection of books in Hebrew, Yiddish and English that is possessed by any Congregation in this country. Readers come from far and wide, they represent the old and young, lay people and professionals. Many of the students of our colleges and universities come here to find information they seek on all subjects that pertain to Jewish life and thought. Our learned librarian, Dr. Elias Rabinowitz, is always ready to help and to guide the reader in the choice of reading material. It has become in truth an essential adjunct to our entire *Bet Hamidrash*—House of Study, represented by all our schools, our adult institute, our forum and lecture platform.

We are happy to commemorate the twenty years of fine service rendered by our library to our community. We pray that it may continue to grow in its usefulness, so that through its influence our people may ever retain the deserved designation—People of the Book.

Israel H. Perithal

Hanukkah Interpreted By
Dr. Kreitman For "Eternal Light"

The following address was delivered by Dr. Kreitman on the Eternal Light program on December 19.

THE rebellion of the Maccabees against the tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes was the turning point in the life of Israel and from our present day perspective twenty-one hundred years later, it was a turning point in the spiritual life of the human race. Had not Mattathias and his hardy band of the faithful made a stand against the King's emissaries, Judaism and the Jewish people would have been overwhelmed. Christianity and Islam, both derived from the parent faith, Judaism, both instrumental in spreading the knowledge of God in the world, would have remained unborn in the womb of time. The festival of Hanukkah, commemorating the deeds of the Maccabees is in this greater sense, the festival of the human spirit.

The heroism and extraordinary strategic skill of the Maccabees brought them wondrous success in the battlefield. But this alone is not the great triumph we celebrate at this festival of Lights. It is the occasion when we recall the unswerving loyalty of the Maccabees and their followers to God and to the faith of their fathers even unto martyrdom. At the moment the Hasmoneans raised the standard of rebellion against the King's officers, at that moment Judaism triumphed over Antiochus and his mighty hordes. The later military successes were incidental to this victory. The Synagogue, therefore, associates with the festival of Hanukkah the words of the prophet Zachariah: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

These words mean that in the ultimate sense a people does not prevail by reason of its victories on the battlefield but by reason of the spirit of God that informs them. In the chronicles of oppression that make up such a great part of the history of the Jewish people, there have been rebellions against tyrants that have failed. But the spirit of God that inspired them to resist and rebel brought them ultimately triumph. The oppressors with their proud victories have disappeared; the people sustained by faith have prevailed.

THE BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER CELEBRATES A DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY

OVER 2,000 members and Jewish Community leaders assembled in our Center synagogue on Monday evening, November 22nd, to celebrate the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the founding of the Brooklyn Jewish Center and the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal's spiritual leadership of it.

The halls of the Center started to fill early in the evening. Many familiar faces could be seen entering the synagogue. Many of the Founders and older members came to participate in the celebration and to pay tribute to Dr. Levinthal on this happy occasion. The proceedings started promptly at 8:15, when every seat in the synagogue and the balcony was already occupied. Late-comers had to be seated in the Social Rooms, where they could listen to the program over the public address system.

Judge Emanuel Greenberg, Honorary President of the Center and chairman of the evening, opened the program and extended greetings. Cantor William Sauler led in the singing of the National Anthem and *Hatikvah* which was followed by the Invocation, pronounced by Rabbi Kreitman. Dr. Moses Spatt, Center President, reviewed the colorful history of our institution and stressed the impact the Center has made on the American Jewish Community. He spoke of the importance of Center membership and he thanked the Anniversary Committee, headed by Messrs. Maurice Bernhardt and Harry Blickstein, for the excellent arrangements. Cantor William Sauler then chanted in moving fashion the Memorial Prayer for the Center's departed Founders and Members. A presentation of plaques and certificates to the Founders, and to those members who have been affiliated with the Institution for twenty-five years or more, followed. In presenting these plaques, Mr. Isidor Fine, Honorary Center President, recalled the events that led up to the founding of the Center and related the early struggles of the Institution. Mr. Samuel Rottenberg, the Center's first president, in accepting the awards in behalf of the honored members, made mention of the philosophy motivat-

ing the founding of the Brooklyn Jewish Center and described the election of Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, who had been the Rabbi of Temple Petach Tikvah. Mr. Rottenberg recalled the work of the past presidents of the institution and praised the excellent leadership that Dr. Moses Spatt has brought to the administration of the Center. Mr. Rottenberg's remarks were followed by the rendition of appropriate Cantorial selections by Mr. Richard Tucker, now a leading tenor of the Metropolitan Opera and former Cantor of the Center. He was accompanied by Mr. Sholom Secunda, the Center's musical director. Mr. Tucker's songs were received with enthusiasm and great applause. A message of Greetings was given by Judge Louis E. Levinthal of the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia, a brother of Rabbi Levinthal, whose address is published elsewhere in this issue.

Professor Louis Finkelstein, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, announced that a number of the members of the Center and friends of Dr. Levinthal had established a fellowship in Homiletics at the Seminary in Dr. Levinthal's name. Rabbi Levinthal then responded with a moving address, also published in this issue, and after the benediction was pronounced by Rabbi Mordecai H. Lewittes, Rabbi in charge of the Center's Hebrew and Religious Schools, the program in the synagogue ended, and a reception for all the guests followed in the main auditorium and in the dining room. The members of the Young Folks League, the Young Married Group and the Social Committee acted as hosts and greatly contributed to the success of the evening.

The two other highlights of the Center's anniversary celebration were the



The anniversary celebration in the Synagogue. On the rostrum are the speakers. An accidental light flash unfortunately obscured the speaker at the microphone, who was Judge Louis E. Levinthal. The others are: first row, left—Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera, the guest singer; Prof. Louis Finkelstein, Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, Judge Emanuel Greenberg, Dr. Moses Spatt, Isidor Fine, Samuel Rottenberg, Samuel Greenblatt. Second row, left—Dr. Elias N. Rabinowitz, Dr. Benjamin Kreitman, Mrs. Frank Schaeffer, Rabbi Mordecai H. Lewittes, David M. Gold. Back row, left—Moses Ginsberg, Morris Weinberg, Harry Blickstein and Cantor William Sauler.



Dr. and Mrs. Levinthal Walking Down the Aisle on the Way to the Reception.

special religious services held on Friday evening November 19th and on Sabbath morning, November 20th. Dr. Elias L. Solomon, Honorary President of the United Synagogue of America, and Rabbi of New York's Congregation Shaare Zedek, was the guest preacher on Friday evening. He spoke of the importance of the Brooklyn Jewish Center in its own community and of the great influence it has on American Jewish Life. Dr. Solomon paid tribute to Dr. Levinthal as spiritual leader of the Institution and also as a friend. A musical program was presented by the Center Choral Group under the leadership of Mr. Sholom Secunda with Cantor William Sauler as soloist.

The Sabbath services were addressed by Dr. Israel Goldfarb, Rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel Anshe Emeth, the oldest synagogue in the Borough of Brooklyn. Dr. Goldfarb also paid tribute to Dr. Levinthal and his leadership at the Center and in the Community. The services were conducted by Cantor Sauler together with the Center choir and were followed by a Kiddush tendered to the entire congregation by the Sisterhood. Dr. Levinthal was presented with a Jewish National Fund certificate by Mr. Joseph Sheinberg, president of the Brooklyn Zionist Region, which planted a forest of trees in Israel

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

FROM THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA

THE United Synagogue of America shares in the joy of the Brooklyn Jewish Center on the occasion of its double celebration marking the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Center and the thirty-fifth anniversary of the leadership of Dr. Israel Herbert Levinthal in the Center.

The thirty-five years which have passed since the courageous founders of the Brooklyn Jewish Center banded themselves together to establish a Holy Congregation in Israel and called Dr. Levinthal to its leadership has witnessed some of the most fundamental and revolutionary changes that have ever taken place in so short a period of time in the history of mankind. Old and established institutions have collapsed and our own people has suffered one of the most grievous of physical disasters that was ever visited upon it in its long and heroic history. In the Brooklyn Jewish Center, as in other synagogues in this country and throughout the world, our people demonstrates ever anew its eternity. Your celebration is a living testimonial to the truth of the prophet's words, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand forever."

Loyal to the great traditions of our religious heritage, loyal to Zion and unwavering in your faith in our Torah, the Brooklyn Jewish Center is one of the most distinguished of our congregations which are perpetuating Judaism in this country and insuring its future for our children and for generations to come.

The prayers of your sister congregations throughout the country are with you for the blessings of the Almighty upon your congregation and your beloved and revered spiritual leader.

CHARLES ROSENGARTEN, *President.*
RABBI BERNARD SEGAL, *Executive Director, United Synagogue of America.*

in Dr. Levinthal's honor.

The members of the Ritual and Religious Service Committee acted as ushers at the services as well as at the celebration on Monday evening.

FROM THE CENTER DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

(Founded by Joseph Goldberg, the late Administrative Director of the Brooklyn Jewish Center.)

AT A meeting of the Center Directors Association held on November 23, 1954, it was unanimously resolved that

WHEREAS, the Brooklyn Jewish Center has just celebrated the 35th anniversary of its existence, and the 35th anniversary of the tenure of its beloved spiritual leader, Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal, and

WHEREAS, during these past 35 years the Brooklyn Jewish Center has become one of the leading and most renowned Synagogue Centers in the country under the inspired spiritual guidance of Rabbi Levinthal and leadership of its late beloved Administrative Director, Joseph Goldberg, who served with distinction for 33 years, and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Joseph Goldberg was the founder and first President of the Center Directors Association and served with dignity and honor as its President for more than 25 years, and

WHEREAS, your present Administrative Director Harold Hammer and assistant Administrative Director, Robert Fox, are valued and honored members of our Center Directors Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Center Directors Association extend their congratulations to the Brooklyn Jewish Center, to its revered Rabbi and lay officers and Administrative Directors, and express its sincere hope that your great institution, its lay and professional leaders continue to grow from strength to strength, and that we may be privileged to share with you, the joys of celebrating your golden anniversary.

R. MURRAY SEBSOW, *President, Center Directors Association.*

A large number of telegrams and messages of congratulations were received at the Center office congratulating the Center and Rabbi Levinthal on this occasion.

ANNIVERSARY ADDRESSES

*On the Following Pages
Are the Speeches Delivered
at the Celebration
of the 35th Anniversary
of the Founding of the
Brooklyn Jewish Center
and of Dr. Israel H.
Levinthal's Ministry in
the Center. They Are
Published in the Order
Listed on the Program.*

By JUDGE EMANUEL GREENBERG, *Honorary President of the Center and Chairman of the Program.*

YOU are all to be congratulated for having been sagacious enough to join an institution such as this. And the Center, too, is to be congratulated because it has as its members, as its founders, men of the type who sit here on the platform, in the pulpit and those who sit in the audience. The record of the Center's accomplishments over the years of its existence—35 years—has been very high, and we're very, very proud of it.

For me to praise the Jewish Center at any great length would be really foolhardy because I think I'd probably be prejudiced. But I do want to say, "Let's all be congratulated that we have made our affiliations with the Center and have devoted our time, attention and energies to the Center.

Let us also feel that we are to be congratulated for having had the wisdom to associate with us our beloved rabbi, Dr. Levinthal.

Tonight we are celebrating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Center and the thirty-fifth anniversary of his rabbinate in the Center and we are very grateful to the Almighty for having given us the privilege of being here to conduct these ceremonies.

Now, our president is just another one of the six who have been presidents of this institution, but despite the fact that he has been president a little less than two years, he has made an indelible impression upon the congregation and upon Jewry in this borough. Our president really has made us feel the importance of his office and the work he has been doing.

There is no need for me to say more in introducing him. I present to you now our president, Dr. Moses Spatt.

By DR. MOSES SPATT, *President of the Brooklyn Jewish Center.*

TONIGHT we are privileged to celebrate a double *simcha*, the 35th anniversary of the founding of our Center, and the 35 years of consecrated service of our beloved Rabbi, Dr. Israel H. Levinthal. Personally, and also in your behalf, I wish to thank Maurice Bernhardt, Chairman, and Harry Blickstein,

co-chairman, and the other members of the committee for their unselfish services in making this celebration an outstanding success.

It is wise, on an occasion such as this, to take stock of past achievements—as well as errors—and to attempt to plan for the future. This occasion becomes a happy one when we consider the constructive results of many fine activities and the progress of our institution.

The Center was established for the purpose of providing leadership in all community activities, and to create, in the words of our beloved Rabbi, "A Seven Day Synagogue." The idea of accepting God only at stated periods of prayer, and not throughout our daily lives, has been supplanted by the ancient precept of accepting God at all times in our daily lives.

In this belief, a group of inspired men, headed by our own Samuel Rottenberg and Moses Ginsberg, undertook the herculean task, in the face of bitter opposition, of establishing our Center, the purposes of which were the promotion of the physical, recreational, educational, social and religious well-being of the community.

These men were aware of the truism that any record of mankind, written by the hand of man, serves but for a moment: it is comparable to writing in the sands of time. They were also aware of the fact that there is but one principle which is eternal—the record of God, and that any structure, to be everlasting and eternal, must have the essence of the spiritual as its guiding force.

Despite all obstacles, the plans for the Center were realized, and our assemblage tonight, in this glorious synagogue, is proof of the success that these men achieved. Our physical structure, were it to be built today, could not be designed and utilized more functionally.

The same inspired men exhibited the rarest of vision in obtaining for us, as our spiritual leader, Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, now the Dean of the Brooklyn Rabbinate. It is my confirmed opinion that it was an act of God that a young aristocrat of the Rabbinate was made available to us at the time the dream of our Center was being projected.

It is indeed a great privilege for me,

who has been so devoted an admirer and friend of Dr. Levinthal, to have been chosen as president of the Institution with which he is associated. Our sages tell us that a man's teacher in the Torah stands, to him, in the place of a parent, and that, as his spiritual father, he is entitled to the honor and reverence due to his actual Father.

It is in this spirit that I am privileged, as your president, and in your name, to congratulate Dr. Levinthal upon this happy occasion in his career. Soon after coming to us he was recognized as a leader in our city, state and nation. He devoted himself unstintingly to the many manifold and consuming problems of our people throughout the world. His devotion to the cause of Zion no doubt helped in the establishment of the State of Israel. Today, Dr. Levinthal stands out as a spiritual leader throughout the country.

It is our earnest prayer that God shall grant to him, to Mrs. Levinthal, and their family many, many years of good health and happiness that he may continue to carry the message of the Torah to us.

As to the activities of our Center during the past 35 years, they have been so manifold that I must limit myself to but a short review of the highlights.

Religious activities are being conducted on the same high level to which we have been accustomed since the inception of the Center; our Sabbath and Holiday services, as well as our Late Friday Night services, attract large attendances and are the envy of other congregations.

The Educational Activities of the Center can be divided into these categories: the Religious School, the Center Academy, the Institute of Jewish Studies For Adults, the Lecture Forum, the Library, the Center publications and the Youth Clubs.

Our Auxiliary groups include the Sisterhood, the Young Folks League and the Mr. and Mrs. Club, and all are functioning at an unusually high level of activity.

Our responsibility towards the community is carried out splendidly, through our keen interest in the successful campaigns for the U.J.A., the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, the Jewish Theological Seminary—the Alma Mater of Rabbi Levinthal and Rabbi Kreitman, as well as many other important and

necessary activities of the Jewish community.

On behalf of all the members of the Congregation, I wish to express my deep gratitude to our honorary presidents, Mr. Samuel Rottenberg, Mr. Isidor Fine, and my immediate predecessor, Judge Emanuel Greenberg, for their sincere and unstinting services rendered to our institution. I also wish to take cognizance of the services rendered by the late Mr. Joseph Schwartz, of sainted memory, who was president of our Institution for a decade. His services as our president, apart from all his other good deeds, merit him peaceful and eternal rest.

Our achievements of the first 35 years must not lull us into the belief that everything we strove for has either been attained, or is near accomplishment; the problems ahead of us are indeed numerous as well as complex. Our inability to satisfy all demands made upon us, especially in the field of Hebrew education are a source of constant frustration; the solution to this problem must soon be found. Whether the solution lies in the construction of new physical facilities, or in the rearrangement of our present facilities, is a matter of deep concern to your Officers and Board. We are ever cognizant of the many requirements of the community, and shall not lessen our zeal to satisfy these requirements.

However, your support and help are necessary to carry out these ideals and objectives. The work of our Center imposes an ever ascending burden of cost upon us and our income has not kept pace with the increasing costs.

We are therefore extremely anxious to have you invite your neighbors and friends to join our ranks. We are presently engaged in an aggressive membership campaign, and feel it is the duty of every member to secure for us the many unaffiliated Jews amongst their neighbors and friends, who, I am confident, will be happy to join us and derive the benefits which membership in our Center confers.

God grant that in the years ahead we shall have the opportunity to continue to serve American Jewry, and with your aid, encouragement and devotion, together with the consecrated services of our beloved Rabbi, Dr. Levinthal, assisted

by Rabbi Kreitman and Rabbi Lewittes, we shall reach the ever-expanding goals for which this Center has been founded.

Such attainments can be assured if we hearken to the words of the Prophet Isaiah: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

By ISIDOR FINE, Honorary President of the Brooklyn Jewish Center.

YOU have heard the previous speakers tell you the history of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, and you have also read it in the *Review*. I don't think that I have to elaborate on that, but I want to add a few facts.

It came to my mind when I read that history in the *Review* that the Brooklyn Jewish Center appeared to me just like a miracle from God. It just so happened that a group of young men became well-to-do, so they moved away from Brownsville and came to the high empty spots on Eastern Parkway, where they found themselves without a synagogue. They got together, and \$100,000 was pledged the first night at a certain meeting—I don't want to mention names because I may slight someone—and the next day there was a sign on a vacant lot announcing the building of the Brooklyn Jewish Center. And that was the time when the baby was conceived. The baby was born premature and had to be put into the incubator. That baby had to get vitamins, and the vitamins were given by Professor Sam Rottenberg, while 25 or 30 of us members gave Mr. Rottenberg other vitamins in the form of notes. Mr. Rottenberg was kept busy getting new notes, paying the old ones, getting new ones, paying the old ones—and constantly we had to feed the baby.

Then a transfusion became necessary in the form of a mortgage. Then another transfusion with a second mortgage, and a third. The baby struggled but lived and grew strong and healthy.

I feel that the Brooklyn Jewish Center, through the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Levinthal has given it, will maintain itself for years and years to come and be the bright spot in this community.

I have been chosen to pick a man who will have the honor of issuing the plaques to the 25-year members and to the founders, and we couldn't have made a better choice than our old friend, and our first president, Samuel Rottenberg.

Mr. Rottenberg would have more hair on his head had he not been the president of the Center for the first ten years and had he not given away his nights, days, weeks, and strength to the Brooklyn Jewish Center. He was the spirit behind the gun that shot the works. And now may I read you the citations Mr. Rottenberg will present:

"Brooklyn Jewish Center citation is conferred upon you in recognition of many years of affiliation with and service to our beloved institution, with the hope and prayer that you and your family may continue to share with us in the task of preserving our Center as a true Sanctuary of God. Presented at the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, Monday, November 22nd, 1954; 26th day of Heshvan, 5715."

By SAMUEL ROTTENBERG, *Honorary President of the Brooklyn Jewish Center.*

DEEM it an honor to be here with you tonight. Others will undoubtedly evaluate the services and contribution of Rabbi Levinthal. I want to boast here tonight; it was my privilege to join with Moses Ginsberg and—I believe—Sam Greenblatt to extend the call to Rabbi Levinthal to become our spiritual leader.

Dr. Levinthal has since then been the soul of this institution. The founding of the Center was a historic event for Jewry in America.

Over 10 million Jewish people visited this institution in the past 35 years. Over 50 million dollars was contributed and collected at the Brooklyn Jewish Center for all worthy causes. But I have in addition to that the finest proof that the Brooklyn Jewish Center was worthwhile, and I regard this as one of its principal achievements—many centers all over the country were created as a result of the inspiration and the encouragement that they received from the Brooklyn Jewish Center.

As you know, everything we have in Jewish life in these United States was imported; we must concede that. But

the center movement is genuine American, conceived here. I was truly thrilled when I read a few days ago that plans for a Jewish Center in Haifa have been completed. I regard it as one of the finest contributions that American Jewry could offer to Palestine.

Now we have had a memorial service for those of the founders who are no longer among us, but I know you will agree with me that I should mention a few of those who played a very important role in the life of this institution: Mr. Louis Cohen, in whose house 35 years ago the first meeting was held; Charles Goell, chairman of the building committee; Jacob Levy, David Shapiro, Morris Katlowitz, and Henry Seinfeld. Their names are inscribed in golden letters on the pages of our institution.

For myself I want to thank God for the privilege in participating in the establishment of this institution, and I want to thank God that He has permitted me to be here with you tonight. God bless you all!

By HON. LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, *Judge in the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia.*

IT IS so gratifying to see from the expressions on your faces whenever Dr. Levinthal's name is mentioned, that you not only admire and revere but also truly love my dear brother.

As an author is judged by the books he writes and an artist by the pictures he paints, so is the quality of a rabbi to be appraised by the kind of men, women and children his ministry has produced. Knowing as I do, what a remarkable record of excellence you of this Center have achieved, individually and collectively, is it not easy to understand why Israel Herbert Levinthal is so proud and happy to be your Rabbi?

I should like to pay special tribute to this outstanding Synagogue-Center for having obeyed, fully and literally, the ancient precept in Pirke Avoth, *aseh lecho rav*. Note that our Sages did not say *kach lecho rav*, "Take a master, teacher, rabbi, for thyself." They said: *aseh lecho rav*, "Make, produce, create a master, teacher, rabbi for thyself." I venture to suggest that the word *aseh* is not without significance for us today.

It indicates that the synagogue member

does not perform his duty by mere passive affiliation and by listlessly hearing an occasional sermon. A Jewish congregant must actively and energetically cooperate, work with, his spiritual leader. You of the Brooklyn Jewish Center have understood this, and you have made the relationship between your minister and your laymen a full and equal partnership, a partnership mutually stimulating and reciprocally creative.

This Center has indeed helped to develop the gifts and the talents with which Israel was bountifully endowed when he came to you 35 years ago. But not even this wonderful institution made him the rabbi he is. Nor did the Jewish Theological Seminary, which gave him his ordination nine years before the establishment of this Center. For if ever a man was born to be a rabbi, if ever a rabbi was made by Divine Decree, Israel is that man.

The rabbinate has not been merely his profession. It has been his vocation, his calling. He was called by a Power that could not be denied.

Long before his Bar Mitzvah he was determined to be a rabbi in Israel. That idea of his childhood, that overwhelming ambition of his, that dearest of his heart's desires, became the central theme of his life. His career is a perfect illustration of the truth of the old aphorism: "Sow a Thought, and you reap an Act; Sow an Act, and you reap a Habit; Sow a Habit, and you reap a Character; Sow a Character, and you reap a Destiny."

Let me briefly illustrate what I mean. As a youngster, in his earliest teens, he organized the Aids of Zion, one of the first Zionist youth groups in this country. At about that time, in 1902, he had the courage to come, uninvited, to a meeting of the Agudath Harabonim in Philadelphia and earnestly plead with the venerable orthodox rabbis to support the Zionist cause. I remember the newspaper article—and the embarrassment of my dear father, when he saw that article—illustrated by an artist's sketch showing a boy addressing an assembly of bearded rabbis in the Bnai Abraham Synagogue, and alongside it a copy of the classic painting of the young Nazarene expounding the Law to the Elders in the Synagogue in ancient Copernum.

I recall, too, the occasion when Israel won the Oratorical Contest Prize at Central High School for his moving address on "The Wandering Jew." And I also remember the time his essay on "Astronomers and Astronomy in the Talmud," written while still in High School, evoked the enthusiastic praise of experts.

You may guess, from these vivid recollections of a half century and more ago, that my "big brother" was my childhood hero. Well, next to my father, of blessed memory, he was. And he has always remained my ideal of what a rabbi, what an American Jew, what a human being, should be.

It was Henry Van Dyke, a clergyman and poet of an earlier generation, who wrote these simple verses:

"Four things a man should learn to do,
If he would keep his record true—
To think without confusion, clearly;
To love his fellow-men sincerely;
To act from honest motives, purely;
To trust in God and Heaven, securely."

How perfectly has Israel kept his record as a man true in all these four essentials! And as a rabbi he has coupled his clarity of thought with eloquence of speech; he has translated the brotherly love in his heart into tireless service for his fellow-man; and the purity of his soul and the depth of his faith have inspired not only admiration but emulation as well. In brief, your rabbi has been "a living sermon of the truth he has taught." That, to me, is the acme of rabbinical achievement.

By **PROF. LOUIS FINKELSTEIN**,
Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

I WOULD like to share with you tonight some of the thoughts that have been running through my mind as I was thinking of this great Center, founded 35 years ago.

To what question has Rabbi Levinthal and this Center been an answer to? Neither a man nor an institution can achieve the place that Dr. Levinthal has achieved, and this Center has achieved, unless they are an answer to a truly relevant question.

Now it seems to me that the question to which the rabbi and the Center are answers is the most profound question in our American life, and in our American

Jewish life: it is the question dealing with raising the standards of conduct of human beings, of transforming ourselves from the clods of earth which we are, to potentialities which we are at the beginning of life.

Now that is of course the whole purpose of Torah. And it is a difficult thing to transform human beings. I have a friend—he is not here, but he is a great admirer of Dr. Levinthal—who once showed an autobiography he had written and asked me if he ought to publish it. The book was fascinating but a little too frank, and I told him I was afraid it could not be published so long as any of the persons mentioned in it were still alive, including himself.

He said, "I'm sorry you feel that way because you have cost me, I think, half a million dollars." I said, "I think that's true; if this autobiography were published it would sell enough copies to earn a half a million dollars." I added, "By the way, what were you going to call it?" He replied, "I was to call it 'How a Monkey Became a Man.'"

How a monkey became a man: Well, that is what that autobiography is. The author tells the story of his early youth when he lived on the animal plane, and how through the influences that worked upon him, and especially the influence of one individual, he became a man. Some day the book will be published.

Now, how do we want to change these little fellows that we grow up to be into the spiritual forces that we can? Human relations are so difficult and so complex, there are so many things that you have to think about in any kind of human situation.

Obviously, human decisions are more difficult to make than the solution of the problems of the universe. In the solution of the problems of physics, the issues are limited; it can be one way or another but it can't be a million ways. But when you think of a human being and your relationship to him, there are a million variables and you never know just what to do. Each of us must make decisions many times a day. And each time they can be good or bad.

Now it is not at all strange that many of us make mistakes. What I'm surprised at is that we ever do anything that's right.

How does that happen? It happens through the grace of God. God in his great love has given us not only a mind but also a heart. And he has made artists of all of us. You notice that when Mr. Richard Tucker was singing a few moments ago, he was singing notes that were composed. Now the combinations of notes that can be made are infinite, and yet the composer and the singer when he reproduced them always struck a beautiful combination. He didn't sit down and work them out by calculation. Somehow the artist knows how to juxtapose the notes in such a way—by an intuition, as Plato says—as to move us.

And when Dr. Levinthal speaks to us, he puts the words and the sentences together in such a way that he moves us both to laughter and to tears and stirs us to the depths of our souls and brings out the best in us. Somehow one knows how. He always finds the right notes.

And all of us have something of that, and so all of us have something of that greatest of all art: the art of living great lives. If you find some difficulty in deciding what to do, think of what's right, what's beautiful; beautiful in your eyes, beautiful in God's eyes.

The trouble with art is that it is subjective, it depends a great deal on taste; and you can't argue it. Some people like things which are very far from beautiful. Some people look at a painting and say it's very beautiful and I look at it and it leaves me cold. That is because in art you can't argue styles; and there comes a place in conduct where the Torah isn't willing to leave it altogether to our judgment as to what is beautiful.

If we were left entirely to our judgment we would make great mistakes. Good intentions are not enough. Sometimes you must have the science of what is right and that is why we have a Torah, which one studies; and the Torah tells us what is right.

Now, therefore, Judaism approaches us in two ways: it tries to train us in the art of living and tries to train us in the science of living; that is what Dr. Levinthal has done for us. You train people in science through words; there is no other way. After you have performed an experiment you have to put it in words. Science must be words. If there are no

words there is no science. The Egyptians knew a good deal of the geometry of the Greeks, but they didn't put it in words: there was no science.

And art is never taught by words. It is always taught by example. You always have to imitate the great artist in order to become an artist yourself. Until you become original by getting the profundity of the art. Dr. Levinthal has taught us both ways. He is what the rabbis call *noem doresh venoen mikayem*, he preaches most movingly and takes the words of the ancient rabbis and explains to us the way of life.

And so I was not surprised to hear tonight these speeches from laymen which are among the best that I have ever heard: the former presidents of this congregation and the present president are certainly people who have been inspired and developed so as to become great spokesmen for the Torah. You have in this institution the spirit and atmosphere and life which helps to mold everybody who enters it. And that is why this Center has become the foremost institution of Jewish religious life in this country. And it has become that because it has had a great rabbi and great laymen.

When I came into this room, Dr. Spatt, the president of this Center whispered something which I thought I might share with you tonight. This will come as a surprise to Dr. Levinthal, and I'm sure it's a pleasant surprise: I was told that a group of men here have gotten together and decided to honor Dr. Levinthal by establishing at the Seminary of which he is so illustrious a graduate, a fellowship in Homiletics to be given to particularly distinguished students.

Now naturally, whenever the Seminary gets something like that I feel good, obviously—that's my business. I am most grateful. But I am especially glad that we will have a fellowship bearing the name of Dr. Levinthal, the rabbi of the Brooklyn Jewish Center. I am glad because I can imagine a generation and two generations and many generations of young boys studying and trying to emulate the great virtues that have made Dr. Levinthal the teacher of all of us and made this Center the spiritual home for so many.

The lesson of this festival is a lesson we share with all mankind. As Reb Mattathias said in the delightful play we just

heard, we say to man everywhere, "It is time to light the Hanukkah candles. May this be for us, as once long ago, a light in darkness."

By DR. ISRAEL H. LEVINTHAL,
Rabbi of the Brooklyn Jewish Center.

OUR ancient Rabbis teach us that when we approach God in prayer or in petition we should join the prayer with words of *shevach v'bodoyob*, with words of praise and thankfulness. In the spirit of that injunction, I want to begin my remarks also with words of *shevach v'bodoyob*.

I am thankful to God that he has granted me life and permitted me to celebrate with you this happy anniversary of thirty-five years of joint service in behalf of our faith and our people. Fer- vently do I offer that ancient benediction, so beautifully sung for us by that heavenly-endowed singer, Mr. Richard Tucker, thanking God *shehecheyanu, y-kiyemunu, v'bigionu lazman bazeib*.

I am thankful to our Heavenly Father that I am blessed to have with me at this celebration my beloved wife and helpmate in my work through these many years. It is often said that it is hard to be a Rabbi. I want to assure you that it is even harder to be a *Rebbeztzin*. And I am thankful that I am able to attest that Mrs. Levinthal has carried her share of the rabbinate—the role of *Rebbeztzin*—with dignity, with intelligence, and with that rare quality, *sechel*. God grant that I may be able to celebrate together with her and our beloved children many joyous occasions in the future.

I am thankful also that we have with us so many of the old members, the original founders, builders and organizers of our beloved institution. Many, alas, are gone, and we miss them greatly. Their memories are deeply enshrined within our hearts. But we are thankful for those still in our midst; and we pray that they may continue to be with us, and work with us, for many years to come.

I am thankful that we have been honored tonight with the presence and inspiring message of my distinguished colleague, one of the great teachers and intellectual leaders of American Jewry, Professor Louis Finkelstein, the Chancellor of my alma mater, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. There has been a close

bond of friendship between us for many years. Indeed, that friendship began with his sainted parents. His parental home was among the first to have befriended us when we first came to this neighborhood thirty-nine years ago. His revered father, of blessed memory, was a great friend of our Center, and was with us at many of our celebrations. I recall the happy event when we laid the corner-stone of this building. The honor of laying the stone was conferred upon my own revered father and upon his father, both of blessed memory. It is good to see his distinguished son maintaining this close relationship with us, which I pray may continue for many years to come.

I am thankful to my friend Richard Tucker for honoring us with his presence and with his soul-stirring singing. We are proud of that chapter in the Center history when he served as our Cantor. He has risen to great heights in the musical world, and we pray that he may go *m'chayil el chayil*, from strength to ever greater strength and achievement.

And I am thankful to all of you, dear friends, for your friendship, your affection and your cooperation in all the thirty-five years of our Center activity. God grant that we may be privileged to continue that relationship for a long time to come.

My friends, this is a double celebration—the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of our beloved Center, and the thirty-fifth anniversary of my own rabbinate here. Now according to the rabbis, *En m'arvin simchob b'simchob*, "we are not to combine two happy celebrations." The rabbis felt that there are so few truly joyous events in one's life that we should celebrate each one separately. But in reality, this is one celebration; they are two that are really one. A rabbi without a congregation is like a soul without a body—he cannot truly function. And a congregation without a rabbi is a body without a soul—also unable to perform its true function. It was our good fortune that at the very birth of the Center the *guf* found its *nesbomob*, and the *nesbomob* found its *guf*. And I think we can say in all sincerity that it was a *zivug*, a union made in heaven, and therefore was a *zivug oleh l'yofeh*, a union that rose to beauty and to glory.

Thirty-five years in rabbinic service is

a long time. Indeed, my own rabbinate began here in Brooklyn nine years before I came to the Center. You may ask in wonderment: "Forty-four years in the rabbinate—a leader among Jews—how could you endure so long, and yet retain (what I hope I still possess) a smile and a spirit of youthfulness?" The Talmud records such a question posed to a famous sage, Rabbi Elazar, the son of Shammai, old and many years in the service of his people. *Bameh be'erachto yomim*, "How did you succeed in achieving old age; how did you endure so long a service in spiritual leadership?" And the old Rabbi's answer is very significant. "In all my years I never made the Synagogue *kopandaria*, a short cut." It was prohibited to use a synagogue as a short-cut to reach a desired destination, and the Rabbi attests that he never violated that precept. "I have never stepped over the heads of my people—a holy people," he continued. In ancient times the students sat on the floor and the Rabbi or teacher sat on a chair before the lectern, and the Rabbi declared that even when the floor was crowded, he never walked over the heads of his disciples, for, to him, they were all a holy people. And lastly, he said: "I have never raised my hands in priestly benediction without uttering the words, 'to bless His people Israel *b'avavoh*, with love.'"

In all humility, I would answer this question, if put to me, in exactly the same words: In all my years, I have never made the Synagogue a short-cut to achieve fame or success in other fields; I have never utilized the Synagogue as a means to reach other goals. To me, the Synagogue was an end in itself, worthy of all my endeavors, of all the capacities that I may possess. To me, the Synagogue was the all pervasive instrument through which I could best serve my people, my country, my God.

And like Rabbi Elazar, I too would say that: "In all my years, I have never walked over the heads of my people—a holy people." I have never forced my opinions upon my people; I have always respected the opinions of every Jew, no matter in what humble position he was, for to me, every Jew is part of a holy people. I held strong opinions and convictions of my own but I would not force them upon my people. I would argue, I would reason, I would endeavor to per-

sue through logic and argument; I would always try to see the truth and the validity in the arguments and opinions of others. Even when I had the power to force my opinions upon others, I never did so, because, like Rabbi Elazar, I refused to step over the heads of my people.

And lastly, I may say in all sincerity, I never raised my hands in the service of my people without thinking of the words, "to bless His people *b'avavoh*, with love." There was a great and unbounded love for my people in my heart, and that love inspired me in all my endeavors. When you love someone, no task is too great or too difficult to perform in his behalf, and it is this love for my people that made my work so easy, my heaviest task so light in all these many years. Not that I was blind to my people's faults nor to the failings of my congregation. There were times when I had to reprove and to reproach my people; but even then I did so *b'avavoh*, with love, as a loving father reproveth a wayward child. This is the answer to the question *bameh be'erachto yomim*; this is the secret of whatever success my humble efforts have attained.

It is not for me to record here the blessed achievements of our Center. Others have already done so most eloquently. But if I were to summarize in one word what these thirty-five years have meant, I would put it in the Hebrew letters denoting the number 35—*lamed* and *he*—which together spell "for God!" These thirty-five years were dedicated to bring godliness into our lives, into the life of our community, our people, our country, into our strivings for all mankind.

My friends, it is good to celebrate the accomplishments of the past; ours is indeed a glorious past. We were the pioneers in the effort to revitalize the synagogue in our American Jewish life; we played a leading role in achieving the rebirth of Israel and Israel's land, and we have done much to revivify Jewish life and thought not only in our own community but throughout the land.

But we dare not concentrate our thoughts on the past alone. Tonight the accent must be on the future. Our rabbis, in a striking comment, remind us that whatever in the Bible the emphasis is on the word *vayehi*, "and it was,"—in

the past—there *eno elo loshon zorob*, "there it bespeaks tragedy." But whatever the emphasis is on the word *v'boyo*, "and it shall be,"—in the future—there *eno elo loshon simchob*, "there it bespeaks joy!" Tonight the emphasis of our celebration must be on the *v'boyo*, on the future. We must dedicate ourselves anew to the great tasks that lie before us. Let us re-consecrate ourselves, in the spirit of consecration that filled the hearts of the founders and builders of our institution thirty-five years ago, so that the future of our Center may be even greater and more glorious than was its past. Let us resolve tonight to strive to bring closer that glorious *v'boyo* which the prophet foretold, "And it shall be that the Lord shall be ruler over all the earth," when all mankind shall live according to His law, the law of truth and justice, of love and mercy, of peace and brotherhood.

ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES

The REVIEW has been unable to print all the messages from friends on the anniversary just celebrated, but following are several that are typical.

"The Brooklyn Division of the State of Israel Bond Issue congratulates the Brooklyn Jewish Center on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary. The Brooklyn Jewish Center has been a tower of strength to the State of Israel since its inception. Our sincere best wishes to the President, the Rabbi, the Board of Directors and the members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center on this very auspicious event.

EDWARD S. SILVER, *General Chairman.*
DAVID H. ZYSMAN, *Mgr. B'klyn. Div."*

"The Officers, Trustees and membership of Union Temple extend heartiest felicitations to your Center and Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal on 35 years of illustrious association.

ARTHUR LEVITT, *President."*

"The Brooklyn Jewish Center and its revered Rabbi, Dr. Israel Herbert Levinthal are outstanding institutions in American Israel. Much of my own inspiration to preach and to expand the facilities and activities of the Flatbush Jewish Center I have gained from the greatness of your Center and from the high standards of Jewish spiritual leadership set by my senior colleague and friend, Dr. Levinthal. RABBI A. M. HELLER."

THE Brooklyn Jewish Center Library was officially opened on December 22, 1934. The occasion was the establishment of the Nazi-banned collection of books at a celebration which included Prof. Albert Einstein, Heinz Liepmann and Will Durant among the guests.

When I came here in April of 1936 at the request of Dr. Levinthal, there were a limited number of books apart from the Nazi-banned books. From this nucleus I began to organize what seemed to me a suitable Jewish as well as general library. I had, in these early days, the unqualified support of Rabbi Levinthal and the then Administrative Director, the late Mr. Joseph Goldberg. Without their encouragement and help I would have faced a hopeless task.

Fortune favored us. A collection of Hebrew books came to the library through the bequest of Mrs. Rachmiel Ashmiel Lipkin, in memory of her husband. There were about one hundred volumes in this collection. At about the same time, a Yiddish literary society asked us to facilitate the sale of a number of books. The man in charge of this project remained with us several weeks. Whether he sold many books, I do not know, but he persuaded the Brooklyn Jewish Center to acquire some of these Yiddish works. We succeeded in interesting Sholem Asch to address a Yiddish-speaking audience at the Center and a nominal fee was charged. With the income from this undertaking we raised a sufficient fund to purchase several hundred books. These, together with the Nazi-banned books, the hundred Hebrew volumes, and the Yiddish books, made a good foundation for a library. I immediately began to classify and index according to the Dewey system. By the beginning of the summer of 1936 we had complete control of our material and were ready to add more books to the collection.

At a meeting of the Library Committee in October, 1936, it was decided to circulate books to members and non-members, on deposit of \$2.00, allowing two books to each borrower. We have long since discontinued the practice of requiring deposits because we found little loss in issuing our books. It is gratifying to find most borrowers trustworthy.

Looking about our library, I realized that even with our more than a thousand

THE STORY OF THE CENTER LIBRARY

By DR. ELIAS N. RABINOWITZ

books the walls still seemed bare. Then we began to plan how to increase the collection. Some books were donated by the late Mr. S. Goldberg; some valuable books came to us as a gift of an anti-Nazi German. These books were mostly German and included some classics—the works of Goethe, Schiller, Heine and others. On the advice of the late Joseph Goldberg we decided to acquire books of some of the authors of the banned books published subsequent to May 10, 1933, the date of the holocaust. For a period of several years, we bought additional works by Thomas Mann, Lion Feuchtwanger, Stefan and Arnold Zweig, Ludwig Lewi- sohn, Sholem Asch and others. To attract readers, we decided to purchase books in the best-seller class, even if they had no particular Jewish interest. This continued for a number of years, until we realized that these books lose their interest in several months and merely remain to crowd the shelves. It was then, about eight years ago, that we decided to make our library an almost exclusively Jewish library. Unfortunately, there are very few good books of fiction written

by Jews so that our collection of novels is limited and somewhat out of date. But this gives us room for more books of Jewish import.

We have another problem in regard to the acquisition of books. We circulate books among the children of our Hebrew Schools, and lately, among the pupils of the Center Academy. Here, too, we endeavored to interest the children by placing before them volumes of Jewish legends, tales, etc. We must admit, to our regret, that the number of good books of Jewish content for children is very limited. At least, this was true when we started to collect Jewish juvenile books. It has somewhat improved of late.

Our Judaica department has grown steadily within the last decade. We have some excellent books on Jewish history, literature, biography, Bible study, folklore and religion. We also have three sets of Jewish encyclopedias. We possess more than 3,000 books in this division.

Our largest collection this time are the Hebrew books. This has been accumu-



Corner of the Library of the Brooklyn Jewish Center. Dr. Elias N. Rabinowitz, the Librarian, is at the desk.

lating for the last ten years. There are bibles and their commentaries; *Mishnayot* and *Talmudim* and their commentaries; codes and treatises on the codes; and a number of important responsa. In fact we have here all that a rabbi would require in his study.

The outstanding volumes of this department are the Soncino translations of the *Talmud*, *Midrash* and *Zohar*. The work was done by a British publishing house and is the product of a number of scholars. The Brooklyn Jewish Center Library holds the honor of being one of the first institutions to place these valuable books on its shelves. It took several years to assemble all the books of the *Talmud* because they were published *seriatim* during a number of years. The first set was Moed, "Holidays," consisting of eight books. This was presented to us by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Weissberg in memory of their parents. The second set was *Nashim*, "Women," which actually deals with marital questions and consists of eight books also donated by Mr. and Mrs. Weissberg. The third set, *Nezikim*, (civil and criminal law) consisting of eight volumes, was presented by Mr. Leo Weitz. The rest of the *Talmud*, comprising 11 books, were donated by Mr. Kalman Sloate in honor of his son's Bar Mitzvah. The *Midrash*, ten books, was presented by the Hyman Spitz Family in memory of their parents. The *Zohar*, five books, was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Irving Rosenfeld in memory of Miriam Chertoff. Another set of valuable books are the publications of the American Jewish Historical Society.

Among the recently acquired items of outstanding interest, we may mention the Hebrew Encyclopedia, presented by our president, Dr. Moses Spatt, six volumes of which have arrived. This is part of a series being published in Israel.

A Hebrew book of unusual interest is the one of polemics against Christianity and Karaitism written by Yom Tov Lippman Mühlhauser, a rabbi of the 14th century. Because of the publication of this book seventy Jews were burned at the stake. Strangely enough, however, the author was saved.

Of English books, I value most the Aramaic Papyra published by the Brooklyn Museum. The editor of the book, Dr. Emil G. Kraeling, gives an excellent ac-

Manuscript Einstein Presented To Library

(1)

Die Kompatibilität der Feldgleichungen der elektromagnetischen Feldtheorie.

Vor einem einzigen Monat habe ich in einer der deutschen mathematischen Annalen zusammenfassenden Arbeit die mathematischen Grundlagen der elektromagnetischen Feldtheorie dargelegt. In dieser Abhandlung ^{zu den Grundlagen der elektromagnetischen Feldtheorie} ~~in dieser Abhandlung~~ ^{zusammenfassen und gleichzeitig darthun in welchen Punkten die in meinen früheren Arbeiten (dieses Bericht zu den Grundlagen der elektromagnetischen Feldtheorie und Handlung des Berichtes 1919 I und 1919 II) im wesentlichen gegebenen Ausführungen} ~~zusammenfassen und gleichzeitig darthun in welchen Punkten die in meinen früheren Arbeiten (dieses Bericht zu den Grundlagen der elektromagnetischen Feldtheorie und Handlung des Berichtes 1919 I und 1919 II) im wesentlichen gegebenen Ausführungen~~ ^{unverändert geblieben waren. So Kompatibilitätsbeweis} ~~unverändert geblieben waren. So Kompatibilitätsbeweis~~ ^{ist auf Grund einer verbesserten Darstellung, welche ich} ~~ist auf Grund einer verbesserten Darstellung, welche ich~~ ^{Herrn Cartan verdanke, gegenüber der in den mathematischen Annalen gegebenen Darstellung etwas vereinfacht.} ~~Herrn Cartan verdanke, gegenüber der in den mathematischen Annalen gegebenen Darstellung etwas vereinfacht.~~ ^{ist, S. 1. Natürlich zu meinen früheren Arbeiten.} ~~ist, S. 1. Natürlich zu meinen früheren Arbeiten.~~ ^{Die in §1 der vorstehenden Arbeit eingeführte Divergenz-Operation an einer Tensorgröße ist nicht veränderlich. So ist} ~~Die in §1 der vorstehenden Arbeit eingeführte Divergenz-Operation an einer Tensorgröße ist nicht veränderlich. So ist~~ ^{lassen, bei demjenigen Divergenzbegriff zu bleiben, der als} ~~lassen, bei demjenigen Divergenzbegriff zu bleiben, der als~~ ^{Bestätigung der Existenz eines Tensors definiert ist. Denn} ~~Bestätigung der Existenz eines Tensors definiert ist. Denn~~ ^{nur bei der letztgenannten Definition verschwindet die} ~~nur bei der letztgenannten Definition verschwindet die~~ ^{Divergenz des Fundamentaltensors identisch.} ~~Divergenz des Fundamentaltensors identisch.~~ ^{Es ist} ~~Es ist~~ ^{Die Kompatibilität (3a) bzw. (3b) nimmt dann die} ~~Die Kompatibilität (3a) bzw. (3b) nimmt dann die~~ ^{Form an} ~~Form an~~
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This is the first page of a ten-page manuscript of an early version of Dr. Einstein's renowned Field Theory, presented by him to the Center Library at the dedication dinner.

count of the meaning and value of the Aramaic Papyri. It throws great light on the history of a group of Jews who lived in Egypt in the 5th century B.C.E. on the isle of Elephantine and at Assuan, at the first cataract of the Nile. All knowledge of this settlement of Jews was lost until the discovery and publication of the Aramaic Papyri in 1906 by two Englishmen, Cowley and Sayce. Additional papyri was discovered by a Brooklynite, Charles Edwin Wilbour, an Egyptologist, whose daughter transmitted his discovery after his death, to the Brooklyn Museum for publication. The book in our posses-

sion gives us much additional information on this Jewish colony. There are many other valuable books in our collection, which now number more than 12,000 volumes.

The question of space has puzzled us from time to time. As volume after volume was added, more and more shelf-space was needed. Several years ago we were fortunate in the interest shown in the library by the late Mr. Hyman Aaron, who constructed more and more shelves as the necessity arose. In fact, Mr. Aaron was planning an addition to the library

by breaking through the rear wall and constructing an annex on the roof. The building inspector, however, decided that the roof was not strong enough to bear the weight of such a structure, so we had to resort to additional shelves running up to the very ceiling.

The reputation of our library has spread far outside the confines of our Jewish community of Eastern Parkway and Crown Heights. Often we have been asked how to organize a first-class Jewish library. The answer was given by us more than ten years ago in an article which appeared in *The United Synagogue*

closely connected with me in our work. The former chairman of our committee, Dr. Irving L. Cohen, was very helpful. For the last several years our chairman, Dr. Reuben Finkelstein, has been most co-operative. I wish also to thank our president Dr. Moses Spatt, our former president, Judge Greenberg, and the officers and Trustees. I also wish to thank our Administrative Director, Mr. Hammer and his assistant, Mr. Fox, and their staff.

And many thanks to our Rabbis, both past and present—Dr. Levinthal, whom I have known for nigh a half a century, and who has been consistently interested

THE ORIGIN OF THE LIBRARY

THE *Review* of the Brooklyn Jewish Center was indirectly responsible for the founding of the Center Library. After the Nazi's had perpetrated their outrageous book-burning and shocked the entire civilized world by this barbarous act some plans were discussed in Europe for the organization of libraries to house the books that went into the Hitler *auto-da-fe*.

I had begun to edit the *Review* several years previously, and it seemed to me that it would be a fine thing if the *Review* inspired the founding of such a library in the Brooklyn Jewish Center. I made this suggestion to the late Joseph Goldberg, the beloved Administrative Director of the Center, who always fervently welcomed ideas that would enhance the prestige and advance the usefulness of the Center. He was enthusiastic about a Library of Nazi-Banned books and set to work to establish it. A modest appropriation was received, and, to stretch this sum, I began to ransack the Fourth Avenue book stores to acquire a collection.

Meanwhile Goldberg was elaborating on the plan, and soon was able to arrange a magnificent dinner to inaugurate the Library, with Dr. Albert Einstein and other notables as guests.

The time was so short that the library was not filled with an adequate collection of the burned books until almost the last hour. At that time I arrived from the final search through the second-hand book stores for rare works, and shortly before the dinner started these last books were placed in the bookcase dedicated to the victimized volumes.

JOSEPH KAYE.

DR. EINSTEIN'S SPEECH AT THE LIBRARY DEDICATION DINNER 20 YEARS AGO

A COMMUNITY is stabilized only to the extent of the justice, friendliness and trust upon which it is based. For that reason education leading towards moral action and feeling is more important to the flourishing and prospering community than education leading towards knowledge and practical achievement. On the other hand, every community based on hatred and enmity is predestined to decay; because, once the negative impulses of the human soul are strongly formed, they will, of necessity, burst forth in the people's daily lives, affecting a distrust of one for the other, so that in the end even any unity towards an external, common goal becomes impossible and there results a complete destruction of the community.

With this knowledge did Moses become most successful as a founder of a community and because of the same reason, can Hitler's Reich have no duration; on the contrary, these wounds seared on the soul of the German Folk, will block any

road towards a sound community basis, even after the people will have freed themselves externally.

It is the gradual disappearance of justice, friendliness and trust, both in international and national affairs, that makes us so fearful of our own times. The World War and the various fascist movements are, in reality, only the most obvious symptoms of this general malady.

Even as in medicine, we must not omit heading the symptoms, especially when vital organs are directly endangered. Convalescence can only be achieved by providing organic treatment. In the case of our social malady, this means the establishing of communities on the basis of fostering the things morally worthwhile. From this point of view, I hail this establishment of a library which should snatch from oblivion those literary products which were banned only because of their high human qualities, and to create for them a new center of influence.

and helpful in our work; Rabbi Kreitman, Rabbi Lewittes, and Rabbi Saltzman. At all times I could rely on their interest and friendliness.

People come to the library to study and to learn. We welcome them, and hope to assist them to obtain the knowledge they desire, or to read the books that will give them pleasure, in accordance with the sage's precept: "Receive all men with a cheerful countenance." (*Abot* 1.19.)

Record. Again, we were called upon for aid and advice at a meeting of a committee of The Jewish Book Council, from whom we were one of the first to receive a citation. We can claim that readers of the entire metropolitan area resort to the use of our useful and distinctive collection. We have even loaned books to readers beyond our area—to residents of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The above is but a bare outline of the growth and development of our library. I wish to thank those who were most

Library Schedule

The Library of the Brooklyn Jewish Center is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 2 to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays from 3 to 9 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Books may be taken out for reading or consulted in the library.

NEWS OF THE CENTER

Rabbi Kreitman to Begin Special Series at Late Services

This Friday, December 31st, at our Late Friday Night Lecture Services, which begin at 8:30 o'clock, Rabbi Kreitman will begin his series of lectures on the general theme "Questions Young People Ask." Members of the Young Folks League and worshippers at the Late Friday Night Services have been asked to submit questions on Judaism and Religion to Rabbi Kreitman for him to discuss from the pulpit. After the sermon, the discussion will continue at the *Oneg Shabbat* which follows the services. A particular question that Rabbi Kreitman will discuss at this service is entitled, "What Are the Essentials of Jewish Life in This Modern World?"

Cantor Sauler will lead in the congregational singing.

Advance Notice

Next Friday, January 7, 1955 at our Late Friday Night Services, Rabbi Levinthal will preach on the subject, "The Truth About the Proposed New Ketubah or Jewish Marriage Contract."

Seminary Campaign

Monday evening, January 31st, has been set aside as the date of this year's dinner in behalf of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Dr. Max Arzt, Vice-Chancellor of the Seminary, accepted the Center's invitation to be the guest speaker.

The establishment of a Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal Endowed Lectureship in Homiletics at the Jewish Theological Seminary was set as this year's campaign goal. This Lectureship will be under the sole ownership of the Center and will honor in perpetuity the outstanding services of our Rabbi. Mr. Max Herzfeld, a member of the Center Board of Trustees, has accepted the chairmanship of this campaign. Members are requested to keep this date open to attend this important function.

Gifts Donated For Synagogue and Prayer Room

The Brooklyn Jewish Center extends its grateful thanks for the receipt of the following gifts:

A beautiful Torah Mantle was donated to the Center for our Synagogue by the Rubin family in memory of their mother, the late Mrs. Anna Rubin, a former employee of the Brooklyn Jewish Center.

Relining of the Ark in our Prayer Room presented by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold W. Lederer.

Employees' New Year Fund

In view of the fact that the employees of the Center are prevented by rules of the institution from accepting gratuities throughout the year, the Center has established an annual New Year Gift Fund.

Members are urged to make contributions to this fund.

Father and Son Sunday In Gym Huge Success

The new feature in the Gym department designating the first Sunday of each month as "Father and Son" day is meeting with huge success. Many boys are "getting acquainted with their parents," using the facilities and playing games together. This new innovation will most likely become permanent. Fathers accompanying their sons, aged 10 years and over, are invited to come together during the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., every first Sunday of the month. Boys coming by themselves must use the gym department only from 2 to 4 p.m. Come and enjoy this new "get acquainted with your son" idea this Sunday, January 2, 1955.

We also wish to announce that all the boys teams are getting in shape for their future opponents.

Personals

Rabbi Herschel Levine, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max H. Levine of 1045 St. Johns Place has received a Ph.D. degree from the Department of Semitics of Columbia University.

A Testimonial Dinner was tendered on November 27th to Mr. Abraham I. Meltzer by the Forton Lodge, Inc., for his untiring and outstanding efforts and devotion to the organization.

Congratulations

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes are extended to:

Mr. Aaron A. Berman of 1730 Carroll

MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST

THE enrollment efforts of our Center Membership Committee reached a new climax at a Breakfast for prospective Center members on December 12th. Over 100 guests responded to the Committee's invitation. A series of special messages and greetings were given by Dr. Moses Spatt, Center President; Rabbis Dr. Israel H. Levinthal and Dr. Benjamin Kreitman; Mrs. Frank Schaeffer, President of Sisterhood; David M. Gold, President of the Young Married Group, Michael Rosenfeld, President of the Young Folks League, as well as Mr. Harry Blickstein. Mr. Frank Schaeffer, chairman of the Membership Committee, presided. This informal gathering proved to be an outstanding success from the point of view of membership enrollment as well as from the social point of view. Our guests had an opportunity of meeting with our Rabbis and with the Center leadership and to acquaint themselves with the Center and its program. The members of the Membership Committee, as well as the group of Sisterhood members assisted in the arrangements and the serving of breakfast. In view of the importance of new membership enrollment in our Center, all members are called upon to make an earnest effort to enroll at least one new member into the Center during the season. Center membership is a most rewarding experience and we ask all our members to share this experience with their friends by enrolling them into our membership. It is hoped that other breakfast of this kind will be held during the year.

Street on his engagement to Miss Mimi Mosevitzky.

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron P. Jacobs of 425 Kingston Avenue on the marriage of their son, Sidney, to Miss Cynthia Frischman, on December 23rd.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spitz of 135 Eastern Parkway on the celebration of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on December 20th.

Miss Rosalind Zambrowsky of 163 East 91st Street, Corresponding Secretary of our Young Folks League, on her betrothal to Mr. Herbert J. Wolf.

YOUNG FOLK'S LEAGUE NEWS

THE Young Folk's League, in the tradition of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, has always stood in the forefront of youth organizations throughout the country in its recognition of its welfare obligations.

During the year, we participate in several charity drives. We have already held our campaign on behalf of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. Anyone who has not as yet contributed should do so. Soon we will be in the middle of our fund-raising campaign for the United Jewish Appeal. There again, we are confident that every member will make his presence felt, not only in the giving of funds but in the activities of the various committees of our group.

* * *

This month marks the departure from our ranks of Philip Friedman, former First Vice-President who has now graduated into the Young Married Group of the Center. Phil's many outstanding contributions to our organization, his inspiration and his leadership will be sorely missed by all of us. Our very best wishes go with him and we extend to him and Helen a hearty Mazel Tov.

* * *

Our Executive Board, at its last meeting, filled the vacancy of First Vice-President by electing Ira Gross, who has already assumed many of the responsibilities of his office. We know Ike will continue his fine work as Co-Chairman of the Program Committee.

Elected to the Executive Board the same night to fill two vacancies were Miss Diane Bentkowsky and Mr. Robert Kritza.

Calendar of Coming Events

Regular Meetings

Wed., Jan. 5th—An entertaining motion picture followed by informal discussion.

Wed., Jan. 12th—Square Dance.

Wed., Jan. 19th—A Presentation by our Dramatic Group.

All of these programs will be followed by refreshments and dancing. Admission will be upon presentation of membership cards only.

Interest Groups

The Bowling Group will continue to meet every Sunday at 2:00 P.M., at Kings Recreation Center, at the corner

of Clarkson and New York Avenues.

There will be a Young Folk's League *Oneg Shabbat* every Friday evening at the Center following late Friday night services. Members and their friends and guests are invited. Refreshments, singing and dancing will follow the program.

Thurs., Dec. 30th, at 8:45—Executive Board Meeting. All members are cordially invited.

Tues., Jan. 4th, at 8:45—Arts and Crafts Interest Group.

Tues., Jan. 18th, at 8:45—Bridge and Scrabble Interest Group.

THE SATURDAY NIGHT CLUBS

IT IS apparent that our Saturday Night Clubs are living up to the rule that the month of December sees enthusiasm approaching a peak. The basic reason, of course, is that each of the groups has a competent leader and follows a carefully planned program. In addition, there are these factors:

1. A brand new selection of recordings has been acquired, with an adequate supply for all clubs. This was made possible by a grant of the Youth Activities Committee as well as through the proceeds of a dance sponsored by the

membership at the end of last month.

2. The U.S.Y. clubs will shortly send a record delegation of about 40 members to the Annual National Convention of the U.S.Y. in Boston. Those fortunate enough to go will surely have an exciting time. They were selected democratically and will report back to their respective clubs throughout the coming month.

3. Vacation time does not find our members unprepared. The Clubs have been working on plans for taking trips to places of interest. All look forward to many adventures.

THE JUNIOR LEAGUES

OUTSTANDING among the achievements of our Junior League was the Thanksgiving Dance held on November 25th. Over 250 college folk spent a highly enjoyable evening with us.

On December 2nd, Mr. George Kelman, representing the American Jewish Committee, addressed Junior League A. He spoke on the timely subject of anti-Semitism in the United States. The members were impressed by his remarks and asked many questions afterward.

As we go to press, plans are in the offing for special events and activities during the vacation period. Many "old-timers" are expected back from out-of-town colleges, and they will join the members in trips, interest groups and socials.

Junior League A is open to college freshmen boys and high school senior girls. Junior League B is open to college sophomore boys and college freshmen girls. The groups meet on alternate Thursdays

WEEK-END AT
COLONIAL GARDENS
Peekskill, N. Y.

sponsored by
**N. Y. REGION Y.P.L. NATIONAL
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**
Friday through Sunday, Jan. 14-16

Reservations
\$20 including all gratuities
See any member of the Executive
Board for further information.

evenings. Interest groups meet at the convenience of the participants.

Sabbath Services

Friday evening services at 4:25 p.m.
Kindling of Candles 4:18 p.m.

Sabbath Services commence at 8:30 a.m.
Sidra or portion of the Torah—"Vayigash," Genesis 44:18-47:27. Haphtorah Reading: Prophets, Ezekiel 37:15-28.

Rabbi Levinthal will preach on the weekly portion of the Torah.

Cantor Sauler will officiate together with the Center Choral Group under the leadership of Mr. Sholom Secunda.

Class in Talmud under the leadership of Rabbi Jacob S. Doner will be held at 3:00 p.m.

The lecture in Yiddish by Rabbi Gerson Abelson will be held at 3:55 p.m.
Mincha services at 4:25 p.m.

Daily Services

Morning: 7:00 and 8:00 a.m.
Mincha services at 4:25 p.m.

THE HEBREW SCHOOL

THE Hebrew School celebrated the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Brooklyn Jewish Center and of the ministry of Dr. Levinthal in many ways. On Saturday, November 20, a special service was held by the Junior Congregation. The sermon, delivered by Rabbi Lewittes, concerned the significance of the occasion. On Sunday, November 21, an assembly was arranged by the students of the Two-Day-a-Week School, featuring a talk on "What the Center Means to Me" by Judith Lorber, president of the G.O. Arthur Lesser sang a Hymn of Thanksgiving; responsive reading was led by Mr. Robert Kritiz.

On Tuesday, November 23, the Hebrew School was host to the Center Academy players, who presented an original play celebrating the anniversary. Rabbi Levinthal addressed the students, pointing out the importance of Jewish education in the program of our Center.

On December 5, the High School students arranged a Community Service and Breakfast in honor of the anniversary. The following students officiated: Joel Nisselson, Richard Tascandi, Linda Shander and Sandy Lubart. The breakfast was served by the Hostess Committee of the P.T.A. under the co-chairmanship of Mrs. Rose Gust and Mrs. Sarah Greenberg. The guest speaker was Dr. Benjamin Kreitman, who emphasized the contribution that our Center, under the leadership of Dr. Levinthal, has made to American Jewry. A discussion period followed.

A Hanukkah operetta, "The Call to Freedom," was presented by the Hebrew School on December 19. In song and story, it told of the rebellion of Mattathias and his heroic sons against the Syrian Greeks, and of the celebration of Chanukah in a modern Jewish home. The music was directed by Mr. David Weintraub, and the acting coached by Mrs. Evelyn Zusman. Costumes were prepared by a committee of parents headed by Mrs. Joseph Soloway. The operetta was presented again for the P.T.A. on Wednesday evening December 22.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Flamm, of 45 Parade Place, have donated a phonograph to the

music department of the Hebrew School in honor of their daughter, Jeannette, who is now a student at Sarah Lawrence College. Miss Flamm is an honor graduate

YOUNG MARRIED GROUP

WE WOULD like to take this opportunity to formally welcome to our group all of the young married couples who recently joined the Center. Meetings of the Young Married Group should be part of your "must" list of Center activities. Our meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday nights of each month.

The group has had two excellent programs recently. To celebrate Jewish Book Month we arranged a unique presentation of an analysis of the Book of Ruth. To those of our members who attended, the instruction and analysis by Mr. Harold Becher, a member of the Center, was a fascinating experience. We hope to have Mr. Becher with us again.

In the field of family life we recently devoted an evening to a film presentation of a family life situation. This sparked

of our Hebrew School and of our High School department. She was the recipient of the Young Folks League Award at her graduation because of her outstanding scholarship and service to our Junior Congregation.

an interesting and enlightening discussion.

On December 28th our members enjoyed a unique Hanukkah celebration, planned by our program committee. This committee and the executive committee are planning our activities through the spring months, and the program will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Review*. Your ideas are invited at all times to enable us to arrange activities to interest the greater part of our membership.

The YMCA extend to all members of the Center and to Dr. Levinthal our sincere congratulations on 35 fruitful years of activity, and look forward to many more years of good work in behalf of our institution, our faith, and our community."

DAVID GOLD, *President*.

CENTER ACADEMY

THE Hanukkah Festival, featuring Hebrew songs and the candle lighting ceremony, was celebrated at the Center Academy on Monday, Dec. 20. Each day, when all the students gathered for lunch in the Assembly Hall, the Eighth Grade was in charge of lighting the ceremonial candles. Parents and friends of the children were invited to attend the Assembly.

The pupils of the kindergarten and the first four grades presented a Chanukah program at the assembly on December 20. The pupils of the Academy made gifts for their parents under the direction of Mr. Louis Harris, their art teacher.

A special assembly in honor of the joint anniversaries of the Brooklyn Jewish Center and Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, was held on Monday, November 23. The Seventh Grade presented an original play depicting the history of the Center. Dr. Levinthal was present at the assembly and addressed the children. At the invitation of the Hebrew School, the pupils of the Seventh Grade presented the same play at the He-

brew School Assembly on Tuesday, November 24.

The pupils of the four upper grades presented an operetta entitled "Judah Maccabee" at the December meeting of the Center Academy P.T.A. The operetta was directed by Miss Naomi Nathanson, music instructor at the Academy.

The pupils of the Sixth Grade presented an original Hebrew play under the direction of the Hebrew teacher, Miss Claire Schwartz. The choral group sang several selections. The choral group also performed at the Annual Institute Day, sponsored by the Sisterhood of the Center.

Notes For Parents

A child's Jewish library shelf becomes a valuable supplement to the training received at the Center Academy, and helps to develop a more intelligent relation to Judaism. Mr. Shpall, head of our Hebrew Department, will be glad to recommend worthy books, in addition to those exhibited at the Book Fair, for your own and your child's collection.

Applications for Membership

The following have applied for membership in the Brooklyn Jewish Center:

BAILEY, DR. JOHN: Married; Res.: 855 St. Marks Ave.; Bus.: Physician.
BLECKNER, MISS PEARL: Res.: 1504 Union St.; *Proposed by* Mrs. Samuel Markoff.

BROOKS, MARTIN: Married; Res.: 421 Sterling St.; Bus.: Clerk, 1408 Broadway; *Proposed by* Abraham Skeer.

BUNDT, JEROME: Single; Res.: 652 Willoughby Ave.; Board of Higher Education, 695 Park Ave.; *Proposed by* Dr. Abr. Bernhardt, Judge Jacob Schwartzwald.

COHEN, MORRIS L.: Married; Res.: 706 Eastern Parkway; Bus.: Attorney, 170 Broadway; *Proposed by* Emanuel Cohen.

FALK, IRVING: Married; Res.: 681 Lefferts Ave.; Bus.: Textiles, 237 West 35th St.; *Proposed by* Chas. Rubenstein, Leo Kaufmann.

GOLDBERG, MISS SYLVIA; Res.: 1549 Carroll St.

FISCHER, MAX: Married; Res.: 47 Bal-four Place; Bus.: Executive, 551 Stewart Ave.; *Proposed by* Harry Newman, Chas. Rubenstein.

GRONICH, MISS JUDITH: Res.: 329 East 16th St.; *Proposed by* Aaron A. Berman, Leo Kaufmann.

HAINER, MARTIN: Single; Res.: 1216 St. Johns Pl.; Bus.: School Teacher; *Proposed by* William Walter, Irwin Ginsberg.

HARMAN, EDWARD: Single; Res.: 1492 Union St.; Bus.: Salesman, Lord & Taylor; *Proposed by* Dr. Isadore Sackdorff, Dr. Isaac Perlstein.

HIRSCH, MISS GUSSIE: Res.: 441 Brooklyn Ave.

JACKOWITZ, JOSEPH: Married; Res.: 506 Eastern Pkwy.; Bus.: Lawyer, 217 Broadway; *Proposed by* Abraham Marx.
KUTLER, JOSEPH: Single; Res.: 590 Sutter Ave.; Bus.: Insurance, 15 East 40th St.

LEIBOWITZ, MISS ANN: Res.: 95 Pulaski St.

MARGOLIS, MISS HELEN: Res.: 4011 5th Ave.

NAGELBERG, MISS ROSE: Res.: 45 Kew Gardens Rd.; *Proposed by* Gerald Jacobs.

SALTZ, JACK: Married; Res.: 451 Kingston Ave.; Bus.: Salesman; *Proposed by* Nathan Lewis.

SCHECHTER, NATHAN L.: Married; Res.: 230 Park Pl.; Bus.: Ladies Wear, 470—7th Ave.; *Proposed by* Benjamin Wisner.

SCHNEIDER, ROBERT: Single; Res.: 221 Lincoln Blvd.; Bus.: Engineer, Army Corps.

SELEY, DR. SAMSON: Married; Res.: 1382 President St.; Physician; *Proposed by* Dr. Jacob Ruchman, Leo Kaufmann.

SHEPPARD, MISS JUDITH: Res.: 1004 Montgomery St.; *Proposed by* Natalie Katzman, Phyllis Kaufman.

SINGER, DAVID: Single; Res.: 1560 Carroll St.; Bus.: Salesman, 1375 Broadway.

SINGER, MISS GLORIA: Res.: 1560 Carroll St.

WALDMAN, HARRY: Married; Res.: 130 East 59th St.; Bus.: Auto Accessory Mfg., 259 Wilson Ave.

WEINBERG, SAMUEL M.: Married; Res.: 975 Washington Ave.; Bus.: Negliges, 172 Madison Ave.; *Proposed by* Leo Kaufmann.

WIESENFELD, CHARLES: Married; Res.: 288 Crown St.; Bus.: C.P.A., 66 Court St.; *Proposed by* Benj. Moskowitz, Irv. S. Horowitz.

ZELNICK, SEYMOUR: Single; Res.: 42 Sidney Pl.; Bus.: Engineer, 1142 Broad St.; *Proposed by* Paul Kotik.

ZIERLER, SEYMOUR: Married; Res.: 426 Eastern Pkwy.; Bus.: Real Estate, 1514 Fulton St.

The following have applied for reinstatement:

LANGSAM, BENJAMIN: Married; Res.: 25 Lefferts Ave.; Attorney, 16 Court St.

WASSER, MRS. BESSIE: Res.: 576 Eastern Parkway.

Additional Applications:

BECKER, GEORGE: Married; Res.: 535 Parkside Ave.; Bus.: Principal, P. S. 199; *Proposed by* Harry Blickstein.

GOLDBERG, MISS HELEN T.: Res.: 327 Alabama Ave.

GOLDENBERG, JONAS: Single; Res.: 1852—51st St.; Bus.: Salesman, 4510 8th Ave.; *Proposed by* Leo Kaufmann, Fred Stein.

HOROWITZ, MISS BERTHA: Res.: 240 Crown St.; *Proposed by* Robert Fox.

JACOBS, MISS SALLY: Res.: 220 Beach 79th St.

JEFFER, NORMAN, L.: Married; Res.: 115 Westminster Road; Bus.: Funeral Director, 4620 Ft. Hamilton Parkway; *Proposed by* Israel Kaplan, Harold W. Hammer.

LEVY, SAMUEL: Married; Res.: 441 Brooklyn Ave.; Bus.: Brokerage, 120 Broadway; *Proposed by* Benjamin Jaffe, Joseph Scheinberg.

LIEBESKIND, MORRIS: Married; Res.: 706 Lefferts Ave.; Bus.: Deputy Superintendent, Board of Education, 110 Livingston St.; *Proposed by* Harry Blickstein.

NATHANSON, MEL.: Single; Res.: 1562 Ocean Ave.; Bus.: Salesman, 1445 Park Ave.; *Proposed by* Leo Kaufmann, Fred Stein.

SCHREIBMAN, JOSEPH: Married; Res.: 55 Linden Blvd.; Bus.: Retail Fruit, 895A Nostrand Ave.; *Proposed by* Leo Kaufmann, Fred Stein.

SHERMAN, MORRIS: Single; Res.: 1475 President St.; Bus.: Attorney, 62 William St.; *Proposed by* Henry Lee Poyta, Ellie Buchin.

TILKIN, BEN: Married; Res.: 1724 President St.; Sales Manager, Hackensack, N. J.; *Proposed by* L. Milbert; Robert Fox.

ZIETZ, SEYMOUR: Married; Res.: 1365 Carroll St.; United Parcel Service, 4902 47th St.; *Proposed by* Arthur Safer.

FRANK SCHAEFFER,
Chairman, Membership Committee.

THIRD LECTURE ON ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

of

ISRAEL AND ZIONISM

Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1955, 8:30 P.M.

"The American Jewish Scene —
Lights and Shadows."

DR. SAMUEL BLUMENFIELD
Director of Culture and Education,
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PAGING SISTERHOOD!

SARAH KLINGHOFFER, Editor

The Jewish Theological Seminary and The Jewish Museum, those two important landmarks and citadels of Judaism, are located here in New York City and are easily accessible to everyone. People of all nationalities and of all faiths, coming from all parts of the world, visit there and are enriched and inspired by what they see and hear. We therefore are not a little surprised to learn that many of our members have never been to these famous institutions of learning.

Our Sisterhood, in its constant endeavor to imbue the members with a knowledge of our rich cultural heritage, arranged a trip to the Seminary and the Museum on Thursday, December 30th. We planned our visit to coincide with an exhibit which the Jewish Museum is currently displaying. It was prepared especially in keeping with the theme of the American Jewish Tercenary, "Man's Opportunities and Responsibilities Under Freedom." American Jews have established a record of participating in virtually every aspect of American life. This record is depicted in colorful and graphic terms at the Museum.

We hope that many of our members will avail themselves of this opportunity to view this exhibit at the Jewish Theological Seminary, the fountainhead of Conservative Judaism.

BEATRICE SCHAEFFER,
President.

Sixth Annual Institute Day

The inspiration and information provided by our sixth All-Day Seminar, held on Tuesday, November 30 were equalled only by the wealth of theories and thoughts expounded so brilliantly by our guest speakers.

Stating that the "mother emerges again as the leading educator of humanity," Mr. Hyman Brickman, Supervisor of our Center Youth Activities, proceeded in a

stirring address to tell the audience of more than 300 women, members, their friends and representatives of more than thirty organizations invited as guests of Sisterhood, how the Jewish mother could motivate and encourage her children to live and enjoy an active Jewish life.

A social reprieve, prefaced by the "motzi" given by Mrs. Louis J. Roth, with luncheon served in our Dining Room under the able Chairmanship of Hostess, Mrs. Harry A. Kurtzman, followed a most stimulating morning.

Continuing on the same high level of presentation and purpose, the afternoon session was ushered in with an appropriate invocation read by Mrs. M. Robert Epstein and a warm welcome by our President, Mrs. Frank Schaeffer who hoped that as a result of this day, our audience would be "mentally fortified and spiritually enriched." In her dual roles both as Chairman and Moderator for the Symposium on "The Modern Jewish Woman and her Family," Mrs. Morris B. Levine conducted the program with dignity and generous dash of her own sweet personality. She presented first Rabbi Kreitman, who said that according to the Bible our ancestors believed the three essentials of life to be the altar, the tent and the well, representing in the same order, the synagogue, the home and the means of sustenance; Sisterhood, by its example was maintaining the altar in its state of primacy. In his message to the audience, Dr. Levinthal praised the work of Sisterhood, stating that we had contributed in great measure to the stature of the Center in its 35 years of its existence, and that we were adhering to the very letter to the trinity of "Zdukah, Avodah and G'milles Chesed" when we disseminate knowledge in the form of an Institute Day.

"The Modern Jewish Woman and Her Family" was a most fitting subject for discussion by our two guest speakers. Dr. Evelyn Garfiel, the wife of Rabbi Max Kadushin, is also a member of the Faculty of the Women's Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary, and has lectured extensively on marriage and the family. She was most enlightening in her outline development of the origin of marriage and

family life, tracing it from early Old and New Testament theories and practices. "It is a *mitzvah* given in the Torah," she said, "to be fruitful and to multiply." Family life can be the richest and noblest experience if it is based on the Jewish view of marriage.

Our second panelist, Rabbi Reuben M. Katz, of Freeport, L. I., discussed the modern Jewish woman and her family, citing Biblical passages which regard marriage as a consecrated and sanctified state, the marital vow affirming the holiness of the union between two personalities, not just two persons. He advanced two truths—that Judaism believes in the democracy of marriage and that Jewish tradition places Jewish woman high on a pedestal.

A memorable event, our Sixth Annual Institute Day, replete with understanding and knowledge.

Cheer Fund Contributions

We thank the following for their contributions to this fund and note for whom they were made:

In honor of their grandsons: Mr. and Mrs. David Finkelstein, Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Davis. In honor of their children's marriage: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shakun. In honor of daughter's engagement: Dr. and Mrs. David Levine. In honor of daughter's marriage: Mrs. Samuel Racer. In honor of the anniversaries of Mr. and Mrs. M. Klinghoffer and Mr. and Mrs. F. Schaeffer: Mrs. Lawrence Meyer. In gratitude for her son Mortimer's discharge from the Army: Mrs. Isador Lowenfeld. In memory of Dorothy Gribetz Shapiro: Mrs. Rose G. Meislin, Mrs. Sarah Kushner.

Federation of Jewish Philanthropies

NOW, NOW is the time for all good women to come to the aid of Federation in its current drive—gather in your monies, contact your contributors and mail at once all checks to Chairman Mrs. A. David Benjamin or co-chairman Mrs. Irving Gottlieb, in care of the Center. Thank you, members, in advance, for your efforts.

20th Anniversary of Our Library

Appropriately enough, during the celebration of Jewish Book Month, the Center marks 20 years of the establishment of its unique library. Copies of books banned by the Nazis in 1934 are to be

found on our shelves as well as thousands of other works of universal and Jewish interest. Visit our library and enjoy its fine atmosphere, talk with our esteemed librarian, Dr. Elias Rabinowitz, who is to be congratulated also upon his many years of service as custodian of our precious collection. Heartiest wishes for its continued growth and honor.

Federation Jewish Women's Organization

EVENT—35th Annual Program and Luncheon of the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations. Theme: "History in the Making." Personalities appearing: Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, former Associate Defense Secretary, and others. Place: Hotel Astor. Date: Wednesday, Jan. 12, 9:45 a.m. Subscription: \$6.50 per person, including gratuities. Join the other Sisterhood women, make your reservations Now.

Excerpts From Correspondence

"I am grateful for a wonderful Kiddush tendered by Sisterhood to entire congregation on November 20, Anniversary Sabbath, and to Lil Lowenfeld and her committee for arranging the Kiddush."—Dr. Moses Spatt, *President of the Brooklyn Jewish Center.*

Calendar of Events

- Mon., Jan. 10—Sisterhood Executive Board meeting—1:00 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 12—Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations Annual Convention and Luncheon at the Hotel Astor. An exciting program will be presented. Tickets \$6.50. Please call Mrs. Lawrence Meyer (SL 6-4946) for reservations.
Mon., Jan. 24—Sisterhood General Meeting. An exciting film, "And the Bush Was Not Consumed." Guest speaker, Mrs. H. Herbert Roseman, National Vice-Pres. of the Women's League. Refreshments will be served in advance of the meeting.

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ANNUAL MEETING—JANUARY 27, 1955

In accordance with the requirements of Section 5, Article X of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Center will be held on Thursday evening, January 27, 1955 at 8:15 o'clock.

Election and installation of officers, members of the Board of Trustees and Governing Board will take place.

HARRY BLICKSTEIN, *Secretary.*

List of members placed in nomination as officers, members of the Board of Trustees and Governing Board of the Brooklyn Jewish Center

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Boys Gym News

The Brooklyn Jewish Center senior boys are developing into a top-notch basketball team. The boys won their first two games beating the Jaguars 41-28 and the Barons 83-56. The squad plays every Sunday and expects to make quite a record. The team consists of Sid Tanenzaph, Artie Kaplan, Eddie Jeffer,

Mike Ginsberg, Sandy Fenichel, Paul Rosenberg, Dave Levy, Doug Kriegel, Martin Schwam, Jay Kaplan, Steve and Elihu Leifer, and Steve Kaplan.

Dr. Leo Jung to Address Forum Series

The next lecture of the series "Jewish Life and Thought in the Twentieth Century," sponsored by the Center in

conjunction with the Institute of Jewish Studies for Adults will be held on Wednesday evening, February 9, 1955 at 8:45 o'clock. Dr. Leo Jung, Rabbi, Jewish Center of New York City and Professor at Yeshiva University, will be the guest speaker. Admission: Free to members and Institute students; \$1.00 for series of three to non-members.

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